

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24, 28, 29, and 32-34 were examined and rejected. The claims have been amended as noted above. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

While Applicants continue to believe that the Andrews '341 patent fails to describe either "continuous" protrusions or protrusions which contact the undercut of the teeth in the fashion set forth in claims 24 and 32, even prior to amendment, Applicants nonetheless amend the claims as suggested by the Examiner. In particular, each of independent claims 24 and 32 has been amended to recite that the continuous protrusions are "continuous solid protrusions" and further that they are formed "without breaks" and that they contact the gingival margin and interdental areas between the teeth "without interruption." Such amendments were suggested by the Examiner and are fully supported, for example, in Figs. 15A and 15B.

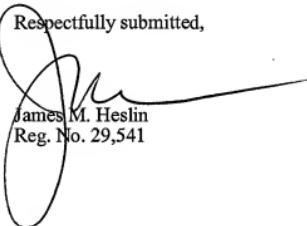
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the rejections over Andrews '341 have clearly been overcome.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Applicants believe that claims 24, 28, 29, and 30-34 clearly distinguish the teachings of Andrews and request that the application be passed to issue at an early date.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


James M. Heslin
Reg. No. 29,541

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
JMH:jar/jis
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